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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

2 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Members of the OCB

Following a meeting with members of the White House staff, attended by several members of the OCB, regarding the Congressional drive to legislate with respect to a "Freedom Academy" and a "Freedom Commission", it was suggested that I meet with Senator Mundt, one of those most interested in the project. He is the sponsor of The Freedom Commission Act (S-1689, 86th Cong., 1st Sess.) which is one of the many Bills proposed and which was recently referred to the Judiciary Committee. My meeting with Senator Mundt will take place Thursday, June 4. Obviously I would not be authorized at this time to give any official viewpoint, but I do feel it is desirable to try to be constructive rather than merely critical.

The Mundt Bill proposes a seven-man full-time (\$20,000 a year) Freedom Commission, responsible to a Joint Congressional Freedom Committee, to establish and supervise a Freedom Academy (located in one or more places in the U.S.) whose function is to develop knowledge about and counteraction to the Communist conspiracy. Students shall be from the "free world" (i.e., U.S. and foreign), government and private, men and women, and shall receive grants. The Commission is also authorized to supply students with additional education at colleges, technical schools, and on-the-job training in industry. On graduation the students will return to their own communities and institutions where, using their special skills and techniques developed at the Academy, they would be leaders in counteraction.

I believe that the motive behind this and other similar proposals is patriotic rather than political and the sponsorship is clearly bipartisan. The objective sought is a laudable one even though the measures suggested may seem to us to be inappropriate. Furthermore, the steam behind the drive is based in part in ignorance of what is being done, and a feeling that nothing is being done. In fact a great deal has been developed

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over the past ten years, but much of this is highly classified or at least the government's interest therein is classified.

The chief objection to the Freedom Commission idea is that there are already agencies and committees of government which are devoting a vast amount of time and effort to the subject, and a new group, whether taken outside of government or from within government, or mixed would largely duplicate what is already being done. As I understand Senator Mundt's Bill, the Commissioners would be full time and could hold no outside or other government jobs.

As regards the Freedom Academy, there are these objections:--

(A) Many universities and other institutions (such as Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Policy Association, Brookings, et cetera, et cetera) are already devoting some attention to the study of the communist menace and the education of their student body or membership. In these universities and institutions we find most of the real experts, outside of those in government, who are competent to deal with this matter. No new Freedom Academy could be formed without drawing on this talent and correspondingly weakening the work of these institutions.

(B) A study of international communism and related Soviet problems is not in itself a rounded academic course. The proposed Academy would reach only a very limited circle of students, could hardly give degrees, or be anything more than a supplement to existing educational institutions. Moreover, a course having counteraction as one of its main goals will inevitably stray from objective scholarship into the contentious field of opinion and emotions.

(C) The Academy would be an overt institution, its personnel and student body would be well known. Consequently their utility as anti-communist workers would be largely destroyed, particularly as far as overseas areas are concerned.

There are many other objections, but these are possibly the most important.

In order to channel the Congressional interest in this matter two possible lines could be suggested:

- (1) To get support, as far as appropriations are concerned, for those particular activities of government which are directed to meet the communist menace.
- (2) To help develop more widespread instruction throughout our universities and other educational institutions with respect to the purposes, objectives and procedures of international communism, to develop the study of the history of communism in both the Soviet Union and Communist China as well as the study of the Russian language, and in particular to develop further the wide range of institutions which are devoting major emphasis to this field.

Conceivably a study might be made of the utility of organizing, on a governmental basis, something in this general field roughly comparable to the National Science Foundation. This would not in itself be an educational institution. It would have no faculty, or resident students. It might serve, however, as a clearing house for the further development in the universities and other learned institutions of wider knowledge on the general subject of communism. It might also be a channel through which modest funding could be arranged in support of approved projects in such institutions. This would involve only a director, with one or two assistants, who would maintain contact with the work done in this field in the United States, try to see that new courses are started in other institutions which do not now have them, and generally serve to promote the education of American students on a broad basis. In this way many thousands of students would be reached whereas a separate academy in Washington could at best only deal with a relatively small number. Alternatively such functions could be assigned to any one of a number of possible existing Government Agencies with or without the aid of an advisory committee.

Possibly if activities were channeled along these lines something constructive would result and we would not be in the position of taking a merely negative stand with respect to the existing proposals.

This memorandum does not deal with proposals to investigate N. S. C. procedures, etc.. (Jackson plan) which I believe should be handled as a separate problem and I do not propose to discuss this with Senator Mundt.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE	4 June
TO: [REDACTED]			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
REMARKS:			
<p><i>a copy of</i></p> <p>Here is Mr. Dulles' memo on the Freedom Commission. We have also made arrangements for a copy to be sent to Frank Hand for General Erskine.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>			
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FROM:		Sec to [REDACTED]	
ROOM NO. 1050	BUILDING L	EXTENSION 4013	

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